

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1-9, of which claim 1 is independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5-9 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, the salient subject matter of dependent claim 5 has, in part, been incorporated into independent claim 1. As explained below, Applicants have not incorporated all of that subject matter because it is believed that the omitted parts are unnecessary to the patentability of that claim.

As now set forth in independent claim 1, the present invention is directed to a recording apparatus which starts the feeding of a succeeding recording medium by a feed roller before the discharge of a preceding recording medium by a discharge roller. The invention is characterized in that the control means is adopted to start the feeding of the succeeding recording medium before discharge of the preceding recording medium and changes a feed start timing from a time when a trailing end of the preceding recording medium is passed through a predetermined position to the start of feeding of the succeeding recording medium in accordance with a leading end margin amount of the succeeding recording medium.

By virtue of the above combination of features, the feeding and recording time for a continuous recording of plural recording media may be shortened.

Yokoi et al. features a recording apparatus which start the feeding of a succeeding recording material by a feed roller before the discharge of a preceding recording material by a discharge roller. The Examiner notes that the setting of the timing of the next recording material had a printing position that is disclosed and asserts that this disclosure would include a leading end margin amount of that material because the leading end margin amount of the material is an end portion of the material that lies on the top before the printing position. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Yokoi et al., when the integration L of the recording material feed after passage of a trailing edge of a recording material by a sensor 15 exceeds the principle distance after the passage of the trailing edge of the recording material by the sensor 15, and further, the printing data for the succeeding recording material exists, the feeding roller 9 is driven to feed the succeeding recording material to the feeding roller 6. Thus, while in Yokoi et al. the existence of printing data for the succeeding recording material is checked, a timing of the feed of the succeeding recording material is kept constant. Thus, Yokoi et al. is silent with respect to the features of the present invention as set forth in claim 1. More specifically, Yokoi et al. fails to teach or suggest a change in the feed start timing in accordance with a leading end margin amount of the succeeding recording.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the

invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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